Civitas Academy Bulletin

 18/03/20

 

**Coronavirus Update from Mr Wieder**

**Contingency Planning**

The government is planning for a range of future scenarios, one of which includes the possibility of a temporary school closure but to date the government’s preference is to keep schools open, given the knock-on effect of parents having to take time off. We have been working on and updating on our own contingency plan for some time now and I would like to share with you some of our current plans.

**Potential School Closure**

As you will be aware, schools in Italy were closed last week for two weeks with no prior notice given. As we are in the UK, we will be following UK guidance sent to school from the Department of Education. It is worth noting that countries will be making different decisions because their circumstances are different. Please note that we are doing all that we can to remain open for as long as possible. As stated in the previous correspondence, if we need to close, we will communicate closure time via email, Twitter and the school website.

In the event of the school having to close, we will do the following:

• We will communicate with parents and carers on the front page of the school website, Twitter and email. Updates will continue to be shared on the front page.

• Our teaching staff and admin teams all have laptops which will allow this part of the school to run as normal. Each year group has been set up with an email address for direct contact with the teachers. These email addresses will be shared if the school has to close. Please note that this will be monitored during usual school hours only. We will be able to pick up calls and messages to the office remotely. There will also be an emergency mobile number provided in the event that you need to speak to me directly.

• It is vital that if the school closes, students should continue to study at home. Whilst there is no substitute for being in a classroom with a teacher, we have prepared home learning packs. Children will leave with books and resources to support this and resources in following weeks will be uploaded every week on the school website. These will be found on the individual class pages on the website. These books will be sent home today in preparation for any potential closure.

• Accelerator Reader will still be available for children in years 3 and 4, along with MyMaths for years 1-4. A useful website section will be frequently updated on the school website.

**School Trips/Events**

Please note that we are following guidance which is subject to change and the latest advice is for no sports events, trips or visits for the remainder of the academic year. Please note that these have now been cancelled and events that are no longer running are highlighted in red on the 2019-20 key dates.

**Staff Absence**

It is possible that for a period of time, the school will be open but a higher than normal number of staff may be absent. We have worked out the minimum number of staff we need to continue to operate. Staff understand that under these unusual circumstances we may be called on the help each other in a variety of ways in order to keep the school open. This may also mean that we may need to temporarily merge classes. If high staff absence does become the case, we will do everything we can to remain open.

**Further Advice for Parents**

This is a fast-moving situation and at the time of writing this letter, the risk level is deemed low to moderate. Please look at the government coronavirus website for the latest information.

Children may well become more concerned about coronavirus. We all have a role to play in managing this. You know your son/daughter best but together we should:

• Do our best not to sensationalise or overdramatise this issue.

• Steer children away from some of the newspapers and social media coverage.

• Not hide information from children but stick to known facts.

 • Not pass our own concerns or stresses to the children.

At the time of writing, the risk to young people who are not suffering underlying health conditions is very low. There will be a small number of children, staff and your own family members with suppressed immune systems, so please do take advice from NHS 111 and government websites. Finally, this is clearly a difficult and unprecedented situation for us all and we are doing our very best to react to and pre-empt situations as they arise, so we are asking for your continued support as we take those decisions in order to protect the health and welfare of our school community

**Reporting Absence**

If reporting absence for your child, please can you inform the school with the reason, so that it can be coded correctly. Please note the most recent advice is to self-isolate for 14 days if anyone in the household develops a cough and/or temperature.

**2019-20 Key Dates**

**Spring**

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| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Thursday 19th March (3:30-4pm) | Y2 SATS meeting for parents-Cancelled |
| Thursday 19th March | Y1 to Wellington Country Park- Cancelled |
| Friday 20th March (3:30-4pm) | EYFS Mother’s Day Tea- Cancelled |
| Friday 27th March | Spring clubs finish- ALL CLUBS FINISHED ON 16th MARCH |
| Monday 30th March (3:30pm-4pm) | Project Celebration- Cancelled |
| Tuesday 31st March | Y1 Bug Ball |
| Thursday 2nd April | Y3 Easter Assembly- Cancelled |
| Friday 3rd April | End of Term |

**Summer**

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| **Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Monday 20th April | Children return to school |
| Monday 27th April (3:30-4pm) | Term Overview Meeting- Cancelled |
| Thursday 7th May (9am-9:30am) | Question and Answer Session with Head of School- Cancelled |
| Thursday 7th May | V.E. 75th Anniversary Celebrations- Cancelled |
| Thursday 14th May | EYFS Train Trip- Cancelled |
| Monday 18th May (3:30-4pm) | Project Celebration-Cancelled |
| Thursday 21st May (3:30-4:30pm) | Eid Bazaar- Cancelled |
| Monday 18th- Friday 22nd May | Mental Health Week |
| Monday 25th-Friday 29th May | Half Term |
| Thursday 4th June (9:10- 9:40am) | Y2 Eid Assembly- Cancelled |
| Monday 8th-Friday 12th June | Cultural Diversity Week |
| Friday 12th June | International Day |
| Friday 12th June (3:30-4pm) | International Food Festival- Cancelled |
| Tuesday 30th June (AM) | Sports Day-Cancelled |
| Wednesday 1st July | Transition Day |
| Friday 3rd July | Sports Day (Reserve date in case of bad weather on Tuesday 30th June)- Cancelled |
| Thursday 9th July | Question and Answer Session with Head of School- Cancelled |
| Friday 10th July  | Reports Out |
| Friday 17th July | Last day of term for children |